

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STOCKH 02616 061514Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----032455 061516Z /46
O 061448Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4190

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2616

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SWEDISH CABINET OFFICIAL ON VIGGEN SALE
TO INDIA

REF: STOCKHOLM 2608

1. ACTING PRIME MINISTER OLA ULLSTEN SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE ON SHORT NOTICE THIS MORNING. ALSO PRESENT WERE COMMERCE MINISTER BURENSTAM LINDER AND MFA POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF KNUT THYBERG. MINISTER LINDER HAD JUST RETURNED FROM NEW DELHI WHERE HE HAD HELD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND OTHER INDIAN CABINET OFFICIALS. LINDER, NOT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IS THE CABINET MEMBER WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS OF ARMS EXPORTS AND APPARENTLY WENT ON THE TRIP TO DELHI RATHER THAN FM SODER AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. THE INDIANS REPORTEDLY TOLD LINDER THAT VIGGEN WAS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE COMPETITION AS REGARDS THE INDIAN AIR FORCE ACQUISITION OF A DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE AIRCRAFT (DPSA). BASED ON MINISTER LINDER'S REPORT, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR A SWEDISH CABINET MINISTER TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH YOU. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE TIME HAS PASSED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STOCKH 02616 061514Z

FOR NORMAL LOBBYING ATTEMPTS, AND ONLY A FACE-TO-FACE SESSION WITH YOU WILL CONVINCE THE SWEDES THAT THEY HAVE PLAYED OUT ALL THEIR CARDS.

2. ULLSTEN STRESSED TO ME THE IMPORTANCE THE SWEDES ATTACH TO TIMING. HE IS PREPARED TO DISPATCH MINISTER LINDER TO WASHINGTON AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE IN THE HOPE THAT A MEETING

COULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE JULY 14. ULLSTEN IS WELL-AWARE OF THE PRESSURES ON YOUR TIME AND SCHEDULE OWING TO THE BONN SUMMIT AND LONDON MEETINGS. IF YOU SHOULD BE UNABLE TO SQUEEZE IN AN APPOINTMENT FOR LINDER IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK, HE STANDS READY, I WAS TOLD, TO MEET YOU IN BONN OR LONDON. WHEREVER THE LOCATION, SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER AND KNUT THYBERG WOULD ACCOMPANY LINDER.

3. THE VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA IS THE ISSUE WHICH REMAINS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN THE PRESENT US-SWEDISH RELATIONSHIP. THIS EMBASSY HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THE SWEDISH CASE. I AM AWARE ALSO OF ITS PRESENT STATUS IN THE WASHINGTON DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. I BELIEVE STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT REGARDLESS OF THE DECISION, THE SWEDES ARE DESERVING OF A HEARING AT CABINET LEVEL. GIVEN THE URGENCY WHICH THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE MATTER, I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU, EVEN WHILE RECOGNIZING THE COMPLEXITIES OF YOUR IMMEDIATE SCHEDULE, TO AGREE TO SEE LINDER NEXT WEEK. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SWEDES HAS DEVELOPED IN EXEMPLARY FASHION SINCE THE LOW EBB OF A FEW YEARS AGO. THEY ARE DESERVING OF A FULL AND FAIR HEARING FROM US ON AN ISSUE WHICH THEY BELIEVE CONCERNS THEIR VITAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

4. I AM TOLD THAT THE SWEDISH CHARGE IN WASHINGTON IS MAKING A PARALLEL DEMARCH WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STOCKH 02616 061514Z

KENNEDY-MINOTT

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH02616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780277-0607
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780788/aaaacwpk.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c376e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STOCKHOLM 2608
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2095477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH SWEDISH CABINET OFFICIAL ON VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c376e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014